

February 4, 2016



Legislative Report

Virtual Schools in Iowa

Annual Report

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Department of Education
Grimes State Office Building
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Des Moines, IA 50319-0146

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Overview.....	4
Appendix A – Survey Data	10

OVERVIEW

I. BACKGROUND

During the 2012 legislative session, lawmakers amended Iowa Code section 256.7 to address online learning in the state of Iowa. The Iowa Department of Education (Department) was directed by legislation to conduct an annual survey of students attending online schools, to include not less than ten percent of the total number of students enrolled and not less than one hundred percent of students enrolled in online schools who are eligible for free and reduced price meals. In addition, CAM Community School District and Clayton Ridge Community School District shall annually submit to the Department, in the manner prescribed by the Department, data that includes but is not limited to student achievement and demographic characteristics, retention rates, and the percentage of enrolled students' active participation in extracurricular activities.

During the 2015 session lawmakers amended Iowa Code section 256.7(32)(c) with Senate File 510 Section 99. The Department was directed to collect from each district and report on the following:

- a) *Student achievement and demographic characteristics.*
- b) *Retention rates.*
- c) *The percentage of enrolled students' active participation in extracurricular activities.*
- d) *Academic proficiency levels, consistent with requirements applicable to all school districts and accredited nonpublic schools in this state.*
- e) *Academic growth measures, which shall include either of the following:*
 - *Entry and exit assessments in, at a minimum, math and English for elementary and middle school students, and additional subjects, including science, for high school students.*
 - *State-required assessments that track year-over-year improvements in academic proficiency.*
- f) *Academic mobility. To facilitate the tracking of academic mobility, school districts shall request the following information from the parent or guardian of a student enrolled in educational instruction and course content that are delivered primarily over the internet pursuant to this paragraph "c":*
 - *For a student newly enrolling, the reasons for choosing such enrollment.*
 - *For a student terminating enrollment, the reasons for terminating such enrollment.*
- g) *Student progress toward graduation. Measurement of such progress shall account for specific characteristics of each enrolled student, including but not limited to age and course credit accrued prior to enrollment in educational instruction and course content that are delivered primarily over the internet pursuant to this paragraph "c", and shall be consistent with evidence-based best practices.*

In addition, the Department is required to survey not less than ten percent of the total number of students enrolled. The students surveyed in grades K-12 are done via email with a survey link. It would be appropriate for the parent or coach to help students in grades K-3 complete the survey.

The Department received the demographic data, student achievement, retention rates, participation, academic proficiency, academic growth, academic mobility, and progress toward graduation from both

the Iowa Connections Academy at CAM Community School District (hereinafter “IACA”) and Iowa Virtual Academy at Clayton Ridge Community School District (hereinafter “IAVA”).

II. DEMOGRAPHIC DATA - SCHOOL YEAR 2015-2016

Demographic information, number of students, for both IACA and IAVA are presented below.

Characteristic	IACA	IAVA
Enrollment	527	305
Gender		
Male	227	145
Female	300	160
Race and Ethnicity		
White	452	249
African-American	11	25
Hispanic	34	21
Asian	*	*
Native American	*	*
Pacific Islander	*	*
Multiracial	24	*
Other Characteristics		
English Language Learner	*	*
504	43	*
Students with individualized education program (IEP)	53	22
Free-Reduced Lunch Eligible	208	95

Note: An asterisk (*) indicates that there are fewer than ten students in that particular cell. No data will be publicly reported for those cells, to protect student privacy pursuant to state and federal law.

III. ACADEMIC DATA - SCHOOL YEAR 2014-2015

Achievement data, percent proficient based on the Iowa Assessments in reading, math, and science for both IACA and IAVA are presented below.

	Reading	Math	Science
IACA	87.7	84.2	87.1
IAVA	74.2	66.9	75.0

IACA – Academic Proficiency Levels, percent proficient based on the Iowa Assessments

	Male	Female	ELL	Low SES	504	IEP
Reading	85.0	88.2	*	84.1	92.3	87.6
Math	78.7	80.9	*	71.4	84.6	80.8
Science	86.6	85.9	*	81.7	96.2	85.7

Note: An asterisk (*) indicates that there are fewer than ten students in that particular cell. No data will be publicly reported for those cells, to protect student privacy pursuant to state and federal law. English language learners (ELL), low socioeconomic status (SES), 504, individualized education program (IEP)

	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian	Native American/Alaskan Native	Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
Reading	87.6	*	95.0	*	*	*
Math	80.8	*	85.0	*	*	*
Science	85.7	*	95.0	*	*	*

Note: An asterisk (*) indicates that there are fewer than ten students in that particular cell. No data will be publicly reported for those cells, to protect student privacy pursuant to state and federal law.

IAVA – Academic Proficiency Levels, percent proficient based on the Iowa Assessments

	Male	Female	ELL	Low SES	504	IEP
Reading	74.3	76.5	*	69.4	*	*
Math	63.5	67.3	*	54.1	*	*
Science	66.7	83.3	*	76.9	*	*

Note: An asterisk (*) indicates that there are fewer than ten students in that particular cell. No data will be publicly reported for those cells, to protect student privacy pursuant to state and federal law. English language learners (ELL), low socioeconomic status (SES), 504, individualized education program (IEP)

	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian	Native American/Alaskan Native	Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
Reading	76.4	*	*	*	*	*
Math	66.4	*	*	*	*	*
Science	73.2	*	*	*	*	*

Note: An asterisk (*) indicates that there are fewer than ten students in that particular cell. No data will be publicly reported for those cells, to protect student privacy pursuant to state and federal law.

IV. RETENTION RATES - SCHOOL YEAR 2015-2016

Retention rates, defined as the percent of students who return to the school this year from the previous year, for both IACA and IAVA are presented below.

	Percent of Students
IACA	76.4
IAVA	74.9

V. EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES - SCHOOL YEAR 2015-2016

Extracurricular activity data, percent of students participating in extracurricular activities, for both IACA and IAVA are presented below.

	Percent of Students
IACA	9.5
IAVA	11.15

VI. ACADEMIC GROWTH – THREE YEAR TREND

Academic growth data, percent proficient based on the Iowa Assessments in reading, math, and science for both IACA and IAVA are presented below.

Reading – Percent Proficient

	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015
IACA	79.2	89.1	87.7
IAVA	NA	79.1	74.2

Math – Percent Proficient

	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015
IACA	73.3	85.3	84.2
IAVA	NA	71.4	66.9

Science – Percent Proficient

	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015
IACA	83.2	88.0	87.1
IAVA	NA	72.4	75.0

VII. ACADEMIC MOBILITY - SCHOOL YEAR 2014-2015

Enrollment data, percent of newly enrolled students choosing such enrollment for specified reason, for both IACA and IAVA are presented below.

	IACA	IAVA
Anyplace/Anytime Learning	25	29
Illness/Injury	19	12
Bullying/Harassment	8	23
More/Less Course Selection	0	0
Under Credit/Overage	10	18
More/Less Personalized Learning	2	5
Miscellaneous	36	13

Enrollment termination data, percent of exiting students terminating such enrollment for specified reason, for both IACA and IAVA are presented below.

	IACA	IAVA
Anyplace/Anytime Learning	14	0
Illness/Injury	0	0
Bullying/Harassment	0	0
More/Less Course Selection	0	0
Under Credit/Overage	0	0
More/Less Personalized Learning	38	36
Miscellaneous	48	64

VIII. PROGRESS TOWARD GRADUATION – SCHOOL YEAR 2014-2015

Progress toward graduation data, percent of students on track for graduation, for both IACA and IAVA are presented below.

	IACA	IAVA
First Year High School Students	N/A See Below	Not Reported
Second Year High School Students	N/A See Below	39
Third Year High School Students	N/A See Below	32
Fourth Year High School Students	N/A See Below	44

IACA – Progress toward graduation presented as average percent of credits earned. Next year school will be required to follow the above format.

	Average Percent of Credits Earned
First Year Students (6 Credit Hours)	95.0
Second Year Students (12 Credit Hours)	97.3
Third Year Students (18 Credit Hours)	107.2
Fourth Year Students (26 Credit Hours)	92.8

IX. SURVEY DATA – SCHOOL YEAR 2015-2016

The Department conducted a survey of the students enrolled in both IACA and IAVA (See Appendix A). The surveys were conducted online for the students enrolled in grades K-12. The number surveyed, number of respondents, and response rate for each school are provided below.

	Number of responses	Number surveyed	Response rate (percent)
IACA	172	527	32.6
IAVA	81	305	26.6

*The response rates obtained are within rates expected when conducting survey research through online methods.

This year’s survey responses indicate that students enrolled in IACA and IAVA understand what is expected of them, how they are performing against those expectations, and are comfortable interacting with their teachers to learn the required material.

X. CONCLUSION

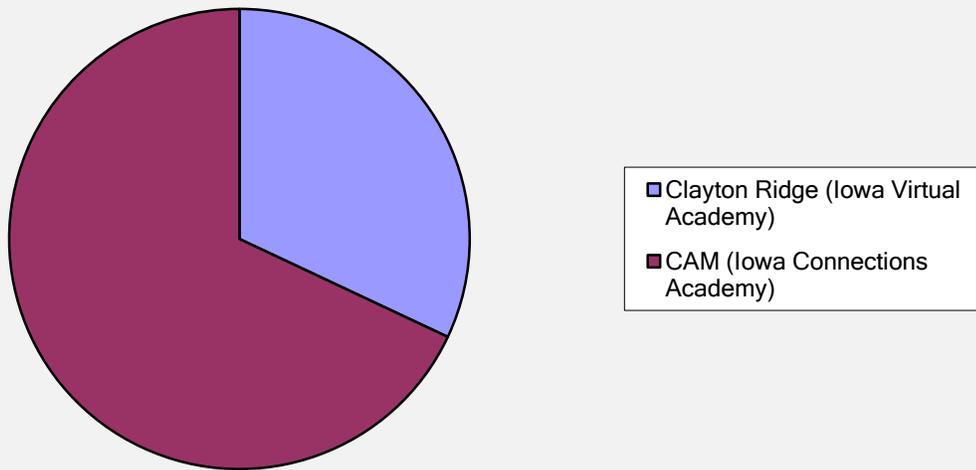
As required by legislation, both IACA and IAVA have submitted the required and available data to the Department for school year 2015-2016. Additionally, the Department has conducted a survey of students enrolled in online schools. The evidence submitted supports that IACA and IAVA are continuing to operate schools with educational instruction and course content delivered primarily over the internet.

APPENDIX A – SURVEY DATA

Which of the online schools do you go to?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Clayton Ridge (Iowa Virtual Academy)	32.0%	81
CAM (Iowa Connections Academy)	68.0%	172

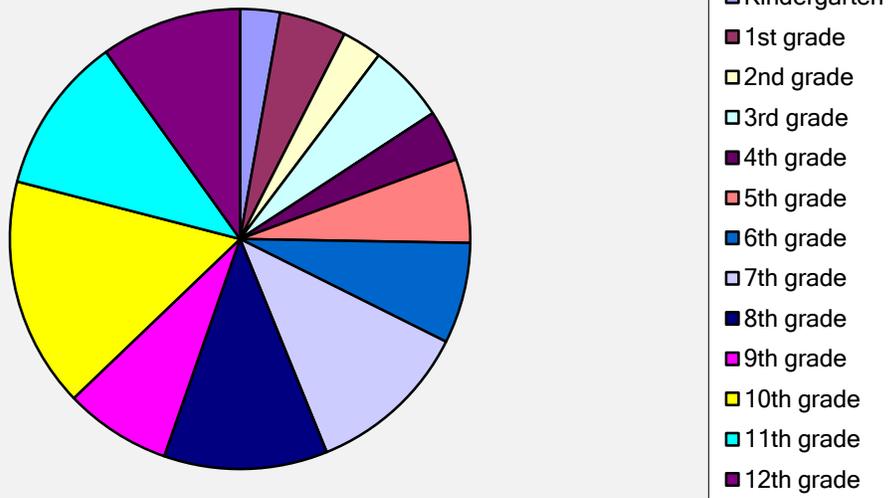
Which of the online schools do you go to?



What grade are you in?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Kindergarten	2.8%	7
1st grade	4.7%	12
2nd grade	2.8%	7
3rd grade	5.5%	14
4th grade	3.6%	9
5th grade	5.9%	15
6th grade	7.1%	18
7th grade	11.5%	29
8th grade	11.5%	29
9th grade	7.5%	19
10th grade	16.2%	41
11th grade	11.1%	28
12th grade	9.9%	25

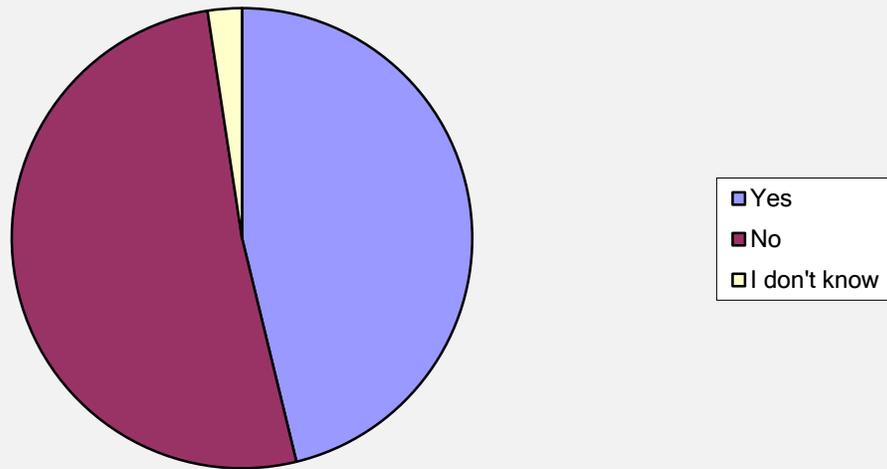
What grade are you in?



Do you start school at the same time every day?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	46.2%	117
No	51.4%	130
I don't know	2.4%	6

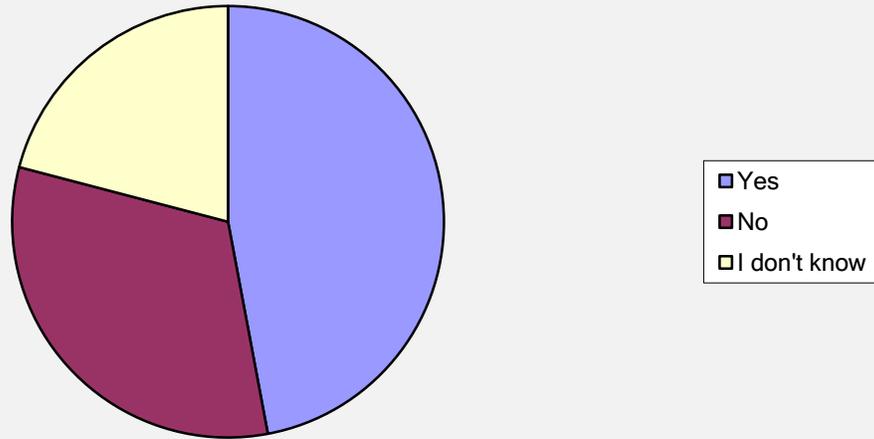
Do you start school at the same time every day?



Do you need to tell your teacher or principal if you will be late or absent from school?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	47.0%	119
No	32.0%	81
I don't know	20.9%	53

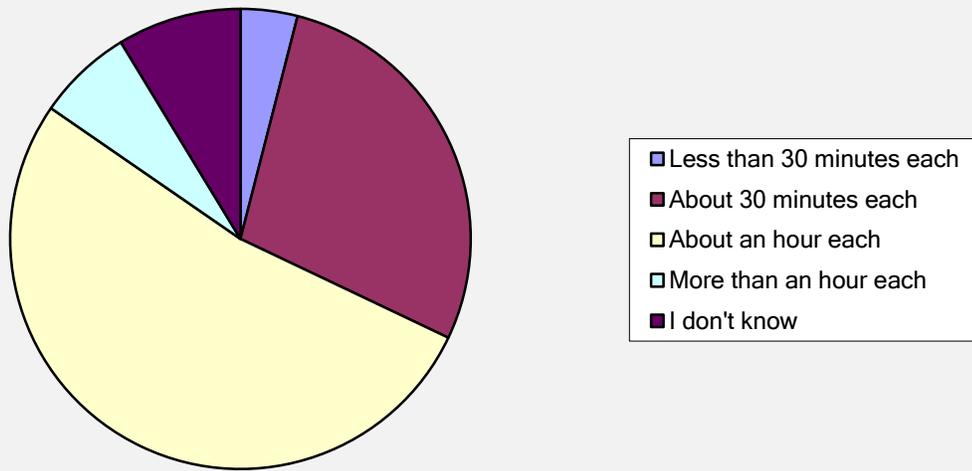
Do you need to tell your teacher or principal if you will be late or absent from school?



How long are your classes?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Less than 30 minutes each	4.0%	10
About 30 minutes each	28.1%	71
About an hour each	52.6%	133
More than an hour each	6.7%	17
I don't know	8.7%	22

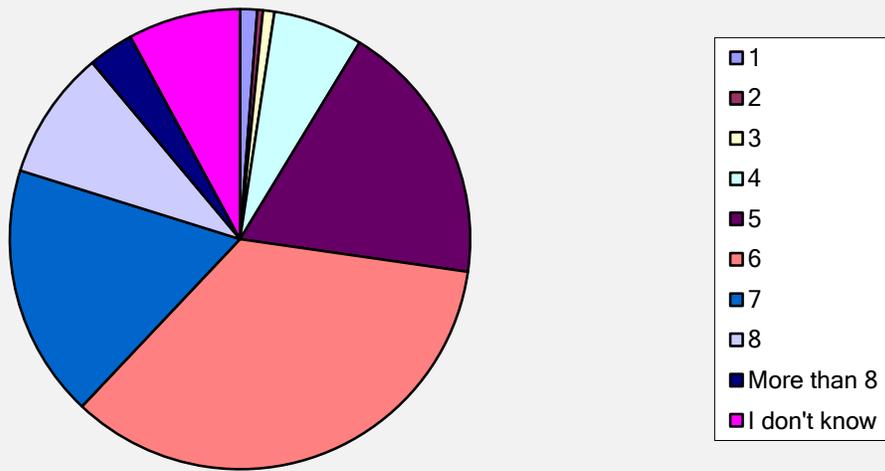
How long are your classes?



How many classes do you have each day?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
1	1.2%	3
2	0.4%	1
3	0.8%	2
4	6.3%	16
5	18.6%	47
6	34.8%	88
7	17.8%	45
8	9.1%	23
More than 8	3.2%	8
I don't know	7.9%	20

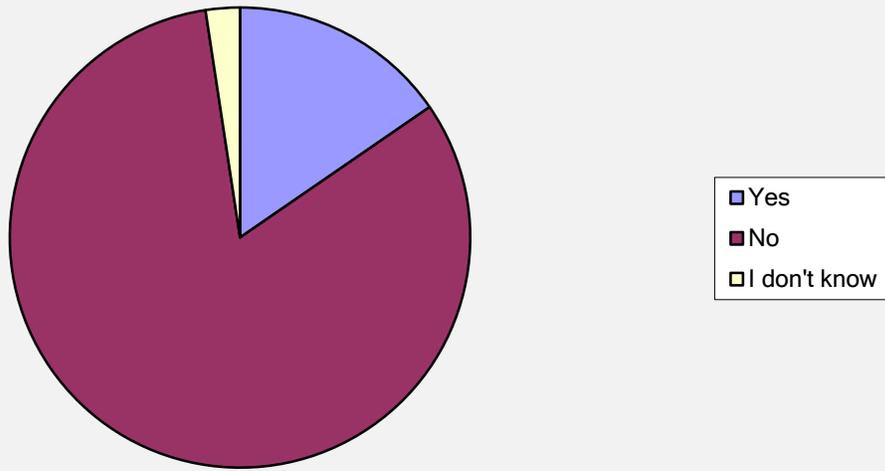
How many classes do you have each day?



Do you finish school at the same time every day?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	15.4%	39
No	82.2%	208
I don't know	2.4%	6

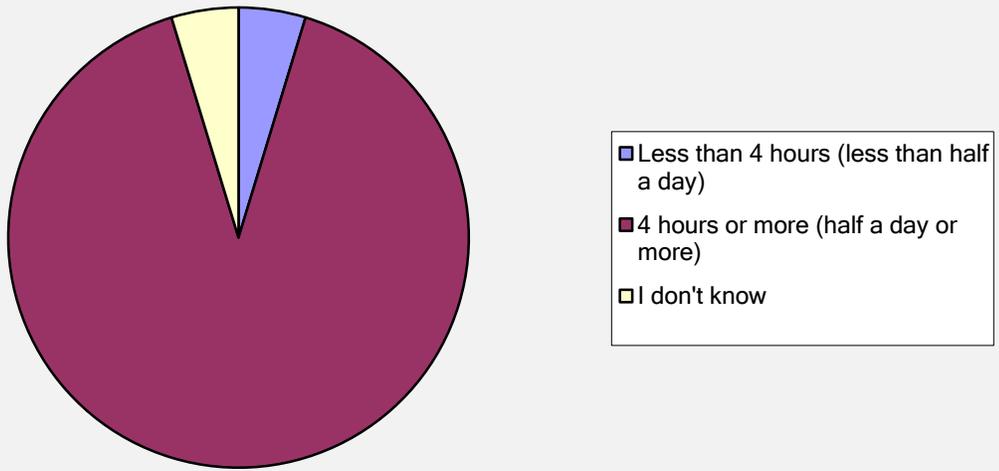
Do you finish school at the same time every day?



How long is your school day?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Less than 4 hours (less than half a day)	4.7%	12
4 hours or more (half a day or more)	90.5%	229
I don't know	4.7%	12

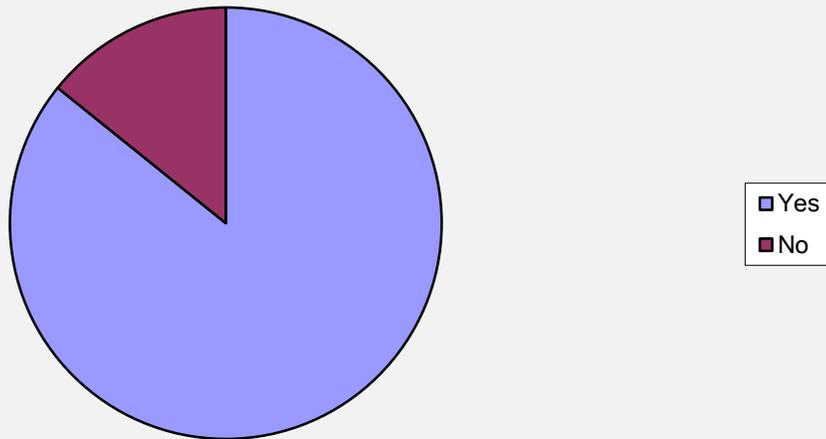
How long is your school day?



If you were bullied by someone on your computer or phone, would you know how to report it to your school?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	85.8%	217
No	14.2%	36

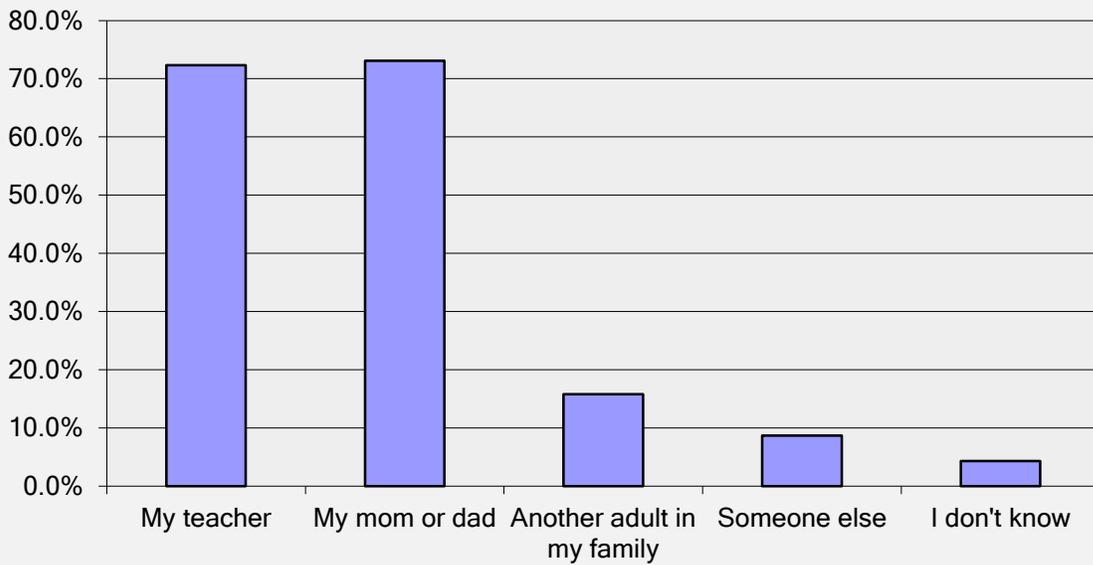
If you were bullied by someone on your computer or phone, would you know how to report it to your school?



Who usually teaches you during school? Check all of the answers that are right for you.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
My teacher	72.3%	183
My mom or dad	73.1%	185
Another adult in my family	15.8%	40
Someone else	8.7%	22
I don't know	4.3%	11

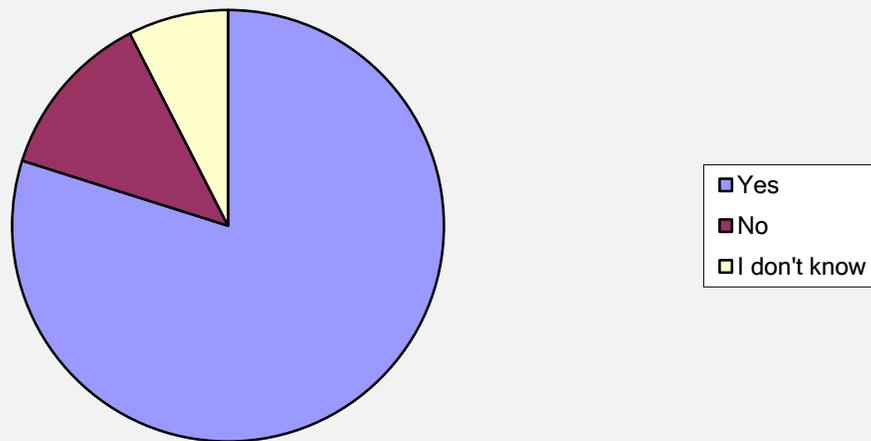
Who usually teaches you during school? Check all of the answers that are right for you.



During your classes, does your teacher spend time talking to you and showing you how to do the things you are learning?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	79.8%	202
No	12.6%	32
I don't know	7.5%	19

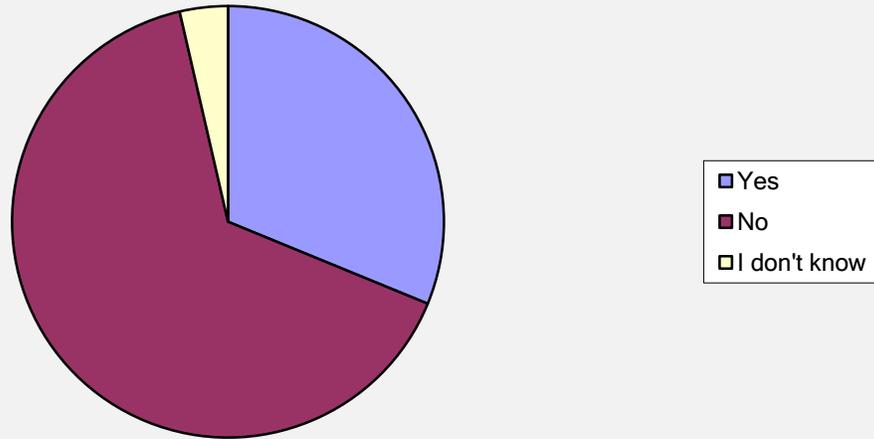
During your classes, does your teacher spend time talking to you and showing you how to do the things you are learning?



Do you work in groups with other students during or outside class?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	31.2%	79
No	65.2%	165
I don't know	3.6%	9

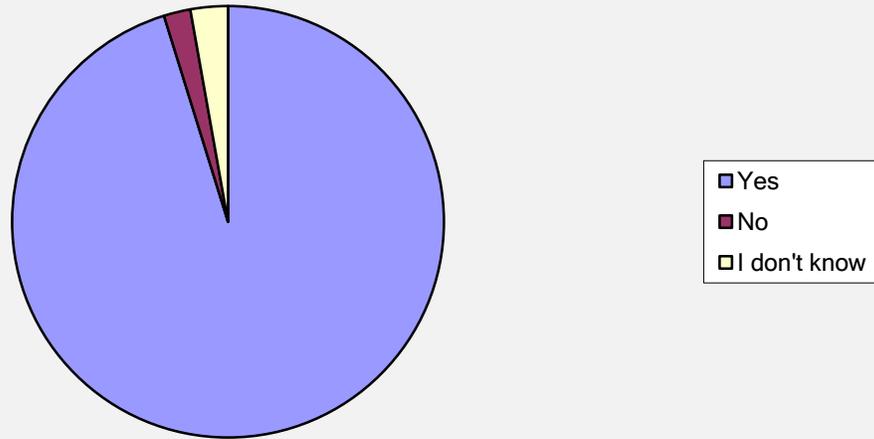
Do you work in groups with other students during or outside class?



Do you have time to work on your own during any of your classes?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	95.3%	241
No	2.0%	5
I don't know	2.8%	7

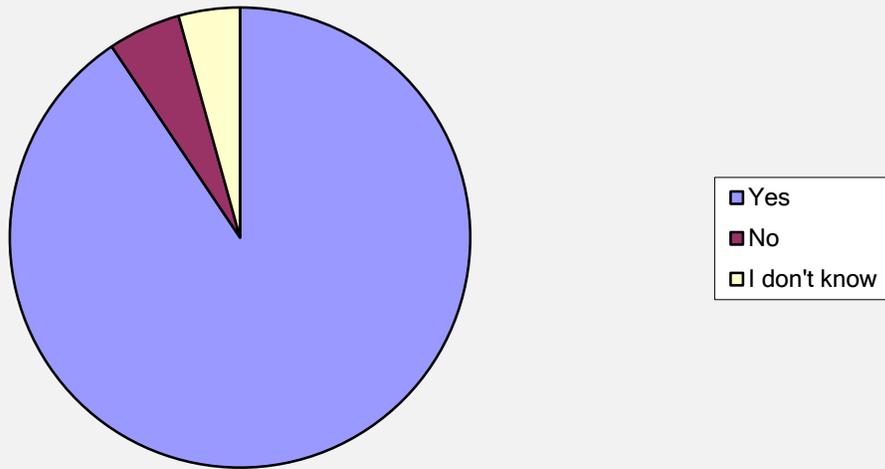
Do you have time to work on your own during any of your classes?



Is there time to study during any of your classes?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	90.5%	229
No	5.1%	13
I don't know	4.3%	11

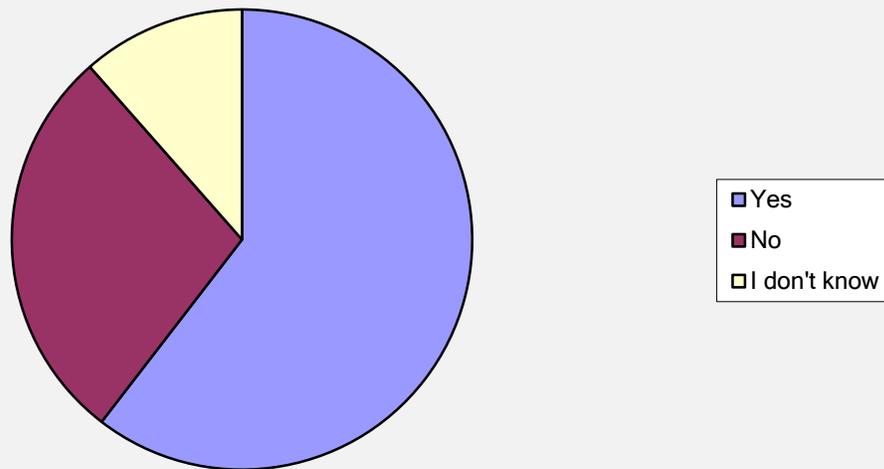
Is there time to study during any of your classes?



Are you called on to answer questions during your classes?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	60.5%	153
No	28.1%	71
I don't know	11.5%	29

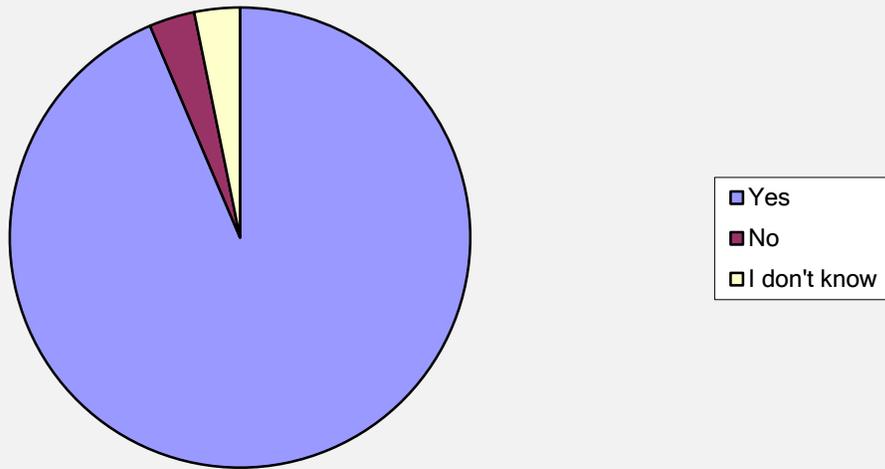
Are you called on to answer questions during your classes?



Can you ask questions during your classes?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	93.7%	237
No	3.2%	8
I don't know	3.2%	8

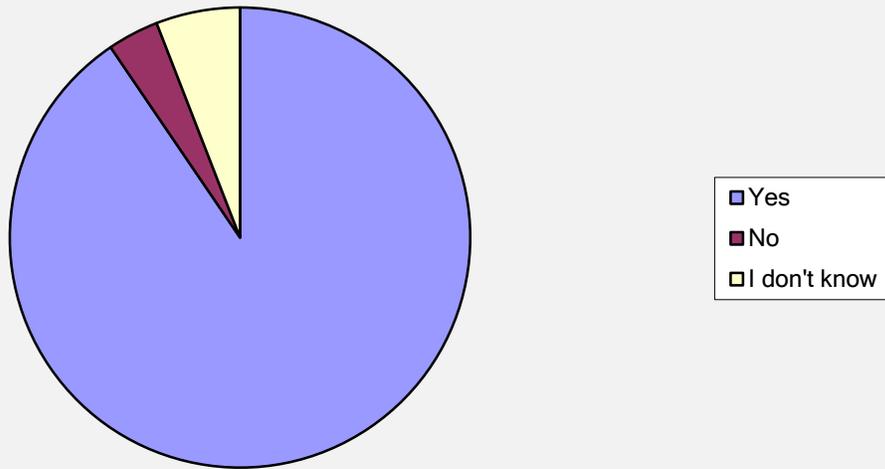
Can you ask questions during your classes?



Do you know how well you are doing in your classes?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	90.5%	229
No	3.6%	9
I don't know	5.9%	15

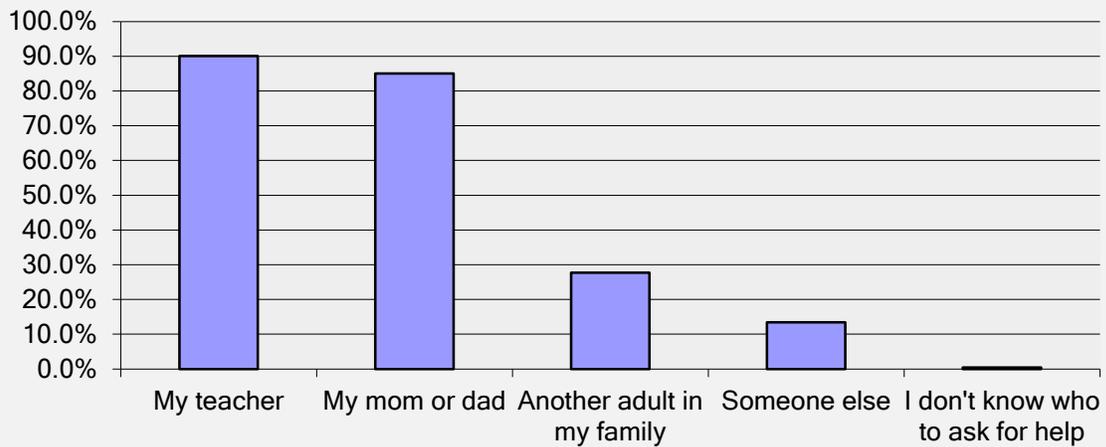
Do you know how well you are doing in your classes?



If you need help with your work, who do you ask? Check all of the answers that are right for you.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
My teacher	90.1%	228
My mom or dad	85.0%	215
Another adult in my family	27.7%	70
Someone else	13.4%	34
I don't know who to ask for help	0.4%	1

If you need help with your work, who do you ask? Check all of the answers that are right for you.



Do you know what your teacher expects you to learn in your classes?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	94.1%	238
No	5.9%	15

Do you know what your teacher expects you to learn in your classes?

